

AMENDMENT(S) TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please insert the following paragraph beginning at page 1, line 4:

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

The present application is a 35 U.S.C. §§ 371 national phase conversion of PCT/EP2003/009280 filed 21 August 2003, which claims priority of German Application No. A 1789/2002 filed 17 June 2004. The PCT International Application was published in the German language.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 5, with the following rewritten paragraph:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The invention relates to a device for operating and a method for modifying an installation for effecting the, in particular continuous, treatment, preferably the cleaning, of a metal strip. The treatment is by means of a treatment liquid, particularly a pickling liquid[[, the]]. The metal strip being is guided, preferably horizontally, through at least one tank for accommodating the treatment liquid, particularly a pickling tank[[, with]]. There is at least one pump circulation tank, and preferably two pump circulation tanks, for preparing and/or storing or holding the treatment liquid.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 17, with the following rewritten paragraph:

~~In the case of~~ cleaning installations for ~~the treatment of~~ treating metal strips, in particular continuous strips, there ~~arises the~~ is a problem of a space requirement that is already in fact very high and is significantly increased further by the requirement for higher treatment rates. In principle, there is a requirement for higher pickling rates in order to increase the productivity of the treatment installations or to counteract a reduction in productivity in the treatment of thin strips.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 33, with the following rewritten paragraph:

It is an object of the present invention to further develop a device ~~according to the precharacterizing clause of claim 1~~, and a method according to the invention ~~precharacterizing clause of claim 18~~, so that a particularly cost-effective and efficient method for effecting surface treatment can be realized.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 7, with the following rewritten paragraph:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The object is achieved ~~in terms of~~ with the device according to the invention ~~by the characterizing clause of claim 1~~, and ~~in terms of~~ the method according to the invention ~~by the characterizing clause of claim 20~~.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 31, with the following rewritten paragraph:

As an advantageous refinement, the run-off between the tank and the pump circulation tank is provided centrally in the tank, seen in the strip running direction~~[[, the]]~~. The bottom of the tank ~~being made to incline~~ is inclined toward the run-off, so that complete emptying of the tank is constantly ensured during the running-off of the treatment liquid.

Please add the following section heading at page 8, line 10:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Please add the following section heading at page 8, line 27:

DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS